

Psalm 13

The choice of this psalm paired with the Torah Reading on Abraham is to contrast God's favor and acceptance with the apparent lack of it felt by David here.

God visited Abraham, ate and communed with him and shared his plan to destroy Sodom, inviting his opinion. That's intimacy and friendship.

David feels forgotten and is looking for that kind of acceptance and communion.

In the psalm, David travels from despair and doubt to confidence in God's presence, mercy and sufficiency.

Psalm 13:2 - "How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily? how long shall my enemy be exalted over me?"

"take counsel in my soul" - The counsels or devices of his heart afford no relief.

Tossing on a sea of doubt and perplexity, David forms plan after plan, but to no purpose. He seeks to find a way of escape from his difficulties, but cannot discover one. - - Pulpit Commentary

"take counsel in my soul" - Literally, "put plans unto my soul." The plans (LXX., βουλάς) formed in the mind turn to sorrows as they are frustrated. It is better to render it, "how long shall I form plans *against* my soul (having) sorrow in my heart all the day?" The next verse confirms the suspicion that suicide had been in the psalmist's mind. — Ellicott's Commentary

Psalm 13:4 - Lest mine enemy say, I have prevailed against him; and those that trouble me rejoice when I am moved. ("moved" - to totter, shake, slip)

The "enemy" could refer to Saul. But the psalm is written for our edification, and the enemy is the evil one who constantly goes about like a roaring lion (1 Peter 5:8) seeking to shipwreck our faith and destroy us. As with David here, he speaks to us through the myriad voices of defeat and despair in our own thoughts.

Psalm 13:5 - "But I have trusted in your mercy; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation."

But something happens. David remembers God's previous faithfulness to him. The use of "I" - the independent pronoun for emphasis - shows that his real identity, the real David unaffected by the lies of his mind - has been called forth within himself, in contrast to his defeated condition in the previous verses. Christ appears.

"Salvation" is *yeshua* - deliverance, salvation, Joshua/Jesus.

The outcome of his renewed trust:

Psalm 13:6 - "I will sing unto the LORD, because he hath dealt bountifully with me."